Executive Proclamation State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, The Civilian Conservation Corps, between May 16, 1933 and July 30, 1942, provided work for 31,097 South Dakotans that would otherwise have been unemployed to devote themselves to "simple work not interfering with normal employment...confined to forestry (renovation)...the prevention of soil erosion, flood control, etc." the development of parks and other recreation areas, and the improvement of lands on Indian reservations; and,

WHERE'S, The 23,709 °CC boys and World War I veterans and the 2,834 supervisory personnel, who were assigned to 200-man camps at 42 locations in the state, constructed 23 dams that created lakes used for recreation, flood control and municipal water supplies; removed excess vegetation from over 200,000 acres of forest making it possible for the environment to raise pines to maturity and produce high quality lumber; quelled 1,000 forest and prairie fires; developed Wind Cave and Badlands National Parks, and Cewel Cave National Monument; developed Custer State Park including the museum, Bluebell lodge and cabins, and Sylvan Lake cabins; developed parks on the 1,600-acre Farm and American Islands (both now inundated), Canyon Lake, and Newton Hills; erected two pigtail bridges and the ranger lookout and residence atop Harney Peak; renovated the outlet for Orman Dam and the 654 miles of irrigation canals; developed wildlife refuges at Sand Lake, LaCreek, and Waubay; planted the first shelterbelts in the state and established tree nurseries to produce seedlings for planting them and burn over forest areas; introduced and demonstrated numerous soil and water conserving practices, now standard parts of ASCS and SCS programs; built hundreds of small dams and developed hundreds of springs for livestock watering at widely dispersed locations to greatly increase the livestock carrying capacity of forest and range lands; and,

WHEREAS, The 4,554 Indians located in different type camps in at least four Indian reservations (Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Lower Brule, and Crow Creek), built homes and conducted projects similar to those in regular camps to improve the land and living conditions on reservations; and,

WHEREAS, The state, during its Centennial celebration, is memorializing, celebrating and otherwise calling attention to numerous historic events, structures, and organizations; and the CCC is a significant page in the state's history; the youngest of the CC boys passed their 64th birthdays and the 46th anniversary of the establishment of the first CCC camp will occur during the year:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 18, 1989, as

CCC DAY

in South Dakota to celebrate the 46th anniversary of the establishment of Camp F-3 (Este), the first CCC Camp in the state.

